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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/016,995	12/14/2001	Stefan Alfons Hepper	DE920000081US1	4982

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IBM CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT.
P.O. BOX 218
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598

EXAMINER

QURESHI, SHABANA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2155

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/016,995

Applicant(s)

HEPPER ET AL

Examiner

Shabana Qureshi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. Drawings are indiscernible. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oliver et al (US 2002/0133412 A1).

Regarding claim 1, Oliver et al teach a method for operating a computer system comprising:

- having at least one content provider coupled via a portal which may also be coupled to a user [abstract; 0118];
- the at least one content provider offering a new content to the portal [abstract; 0110];

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- the portal comparing credentials of the at least one content provider with stored credentials of registered content providers [0118; 0133]; and
- the portal accepting or rejecting at least a particular provider included in the at least one content provider based on the stored credentials [0133; 0031; 0120].

As per claim 2, Oliver et al teach a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising offering the credentials of the at least one content provider to the portal together with the new content [0133].

As per claim 3, Oliver et al teach a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising storing the credentials of the registered content providers in a database of the portal [0133; 0155].

As per claim 4, Oliver et al teach a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising performing automatically the comparison of the credentials with an intelligent program having a rule database [0161-0236].

As per claim 5, Oliver et al teach a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising performing manually the comparison of the credentials [0133].

As per claim 2, Oliver et al teach a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the portal checking the new content, and the portal accepting or rejecting the new content [0133; 0031; 0120].

As per claim 7, Oliver et al teach a method as recited in claim 6 wherein the evaluation of the new content is performed semi-automatically or fully automatically [0162].

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As per claim 8, Oliver et al teach a method as recited in claim 6 wherein the user is notified about the new content if the new content matches with preferences of the user [0122].

As per claim 9, Oliver et al teach an article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing operation of a computer system, the computer readable program code means in the article of manufacture comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the steps of claim 1 [0161-0236].

As per claim 10, Oliver et al teach a computer system comprising at least one content provider which is coupled to a portal which may be coupled to a user [0296] wherein the at least one content provider comprises means for offering a new content to the portal [0296], wherein the portal comprises means for comparing credentials of the at least one content provider with stored credentials of registered content providers [0133], and wherein the portal comprises means for accepting or rejecting the at least one content provider [0133; 0031; 0120].

As per claim 11, Oliver et al teach the computer system of claim 10 wherein the portal comprises a database for registered content provider credentials [0133].

As per claim 12, Oliver et al teach a computer system as recited in claim 10 wherein the at least one content providers, the portal and the user are coupled via the Internet [0028, 0113].

As per claim 13, Oliver et al teach a program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method

steps for causing operation of a computer system, the method steps comprising the steps of claim 1 [0161-0236].

As per claim 14, Oliver et al teach an article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing operation of a computer system, the computer readable program code means in the article of manufacture comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the steps of claim 2 [0161-0236].

As per claim 15, Oliver et al teach an article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing operation of a computer system, the computer readable program code means in the article of manufacture comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the steps of claim 1 [0161-0236].

As per claim 16, Oliver et al teach a computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing operation of a computer system, the computer readable program code means in the computer program product comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 11 [0161-0236].

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Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shabana Qureshi whose telephone number is (703) 308-6118. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on (703) 308-6662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Shabana Qureshi
Examiner
Art Unit 2155

SQ
15 December 2003


HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER